

# Community Newsletter

April 2022 Edition



## Note from Mayor Meghan F. George



You may have seen the long-anticipated news about the former Lakewood Hospital site. This Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, we will present the term sheet for the redevelopment of the site to City Council. I am excited to share this with City Council and with the Lakewood community.

An anchor to the proposed agreement is the rapidly-growing local business, Roundstone Insurance. Since acquiring its current Lakewood location in 2016, they have grown from a company with 40 employees to over 100 today and plan to add nearly 100 more in the next 5 years. Not being able to accommodate this growth at their current location, this site will serve as their new corporate home for years to come.

As part of this project, Roundstone will construct, own, and occupy over 65,000 square feet of new, class A office space. An additional nearly 30,000 square feet of first-floor retail and commercial space will support the existing commercial corridor.

Some other exciting aspects of this project include:

- **A residential component:** At least 200 new residential units with multiple housing types, including single-floor living and ownership opportunities. Of these units, at least 20% will be affordable and made available to income-qualifying households.
- **A community space for Lakewoodites:** A first-class, programmed, year-round, multi-functional, community gathering, and event space will anchor Detroit Avenue and serve as a central front door to the project.
- **Parking:** We know that the need for parking, especially in the downtown area of Lakewood, is a priority. A parking garage supporting the overall project and honoring past commitments to provide parking for the Cleveland Clinic Family Health Center will be constructed.
- **Jobs and Increased Tax Base:** Historically, and currently, the property has not generated any property taxes. Upon transfer and development of the site, it will generate property taxes for the first time in decades, if not ever. In addition, approximately 300 jobs will be retained and created in the community within five years.

We are excited to share more about this plan and will keep the community updated on opportunities to participate in feedback and community meetings. For more information on the project, including site plans, click [here](#).

Finally, I hope you will join us on Tuesday, April 12th at the new Cove Community Center for a ribbon-cutting and for the State of the City, where I will share more exciting news, updates, and accomplishments from the last year. I look forward to seeing you.

Mayor Meghan F. George

## Upcoming Events & Updates

### **Wednesday, April 6- Coffee with a Cop**

The Lakewood Police Department will host “Coffee with a Cop” event on Wednesday, April 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Quilting Bee, 15709 Detroit Avenue. Einstein Bagels is generously donating bagels and coffee for this event.

### **Tuesday, April 12-State of the City**

Please join us on Tuesday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m. for a special evening as we cut the ribbon on the new Cove Community Center (12501 Lake Avenue) and our Annual State of the City.



## **Calendar of Events**

### **You are Invited!**

Please join us on Tuesday, April 12 for a special evening as we cut the ribbon on the new Cove Community Center (12501 Lake Avenue) and our Annual State of the City.

**5:30 p.m.:** Cove Community Center ribbon-cutting

**6:00 p.m.:** Mayor Meghan F. George will deliver her 2022 State of the City address

**6:30 p.m.:** Open House and tours of the new Cove Community Center



### **Recycling Reminders**

Look for an informational postcard headed for your mailbox about recycling requirements. What can and cannot be recycled has changed over the years, and this postcard will help clarify the requirements for Lakewood residents.

Many thanks to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's Community Recycling Awareness Grant program for supporting this effort to get the word out. For more information about Lakewood's recycling program, click [here](#).



### **Play Ball!**

Improvements and well-needed upgrades at two of Lakewood's ballfields (Jimmie Foxx Field at Kauffman Park and George J. Usher Field at Madison Park) are well underway and expect to be finished by May 1st,



just in time for the spring season.

Under a new agreement with Lakewood City Schools, the City will make repairs to one of the six city-owned fields on a rotating basis annually. Lakewood Recreation Department will be responsible for year-round maintenance.

Click [here](#) for more information on this agreement and future plans.

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## Madison Branch Reopening

The newly renovated and expanded Madison Branch of the Lakewood Public Library is now open to the public. The updates to the facility have made it more modern and inviting, more efficient, and more welcoming to the diverse community that we celebrate here in Lakewood.

The City was pleased to partner with the Library to provide a small easement on Madison Park land that allowed an extra driveway to be added as part of the project to improve safety and access. In addition, there is a new path that was built to link the library to the park, connecting two of Lakewood's most used and most beloved public assets.



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## Breakfast with the Bunny

Join H2O-Help to Others for Breakfast with a Bunny on Saturday, April 9th at the Women's Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park.

H2O's youth volunteers will serve a delicious pancake breakfast and the Easter bunny will be available for photos. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for kids, and there are four seating times to choose from.

To purchase tickets, click [here](#).



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## We are Hiring!

The City of Lakewood is currently seeking applicants for the following openings:

- Fleet Mechanic
- Project Manager/Engineer



For more information and to apply, please click [here](#).

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## Firefighter John Poloha Retiring in May

After over thirty years of service, John "Cowboy" Poloha will be retiring from the Lakewood Fire Department in May. John began his fire service career in 1985 with the United States Air Force where he received firefighter training and was then stationed at Mountain Home AFB in Idaho. In 1989, John came to Lakewood and is currently the senior most member on the roster.



Throughout the years away from the fire station, John has coached countless kids in youth wrestling and is also a referee for the sport. He is a car and motorcycle enthusiast and enjoys riding his motorcycle with his wife Christie and friends. He is a movie buff and avid fan of the Billy Jack films, but most of all he loves Richard Gere and Michael Douglas movies. Upon his retirement from the LFD this May, John will finish his career where he started by riding his motorcycle back to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. In retirement he will spend time with Christie, his two sons Josh and Jake, grandkids, and the many friends he's accumulated throughout his career.

We want to thank John for his years of service to his country and his community and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

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